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THE BEDLAM FILES

With Adam Groves

Presently, in our third month of coronavirus-induced quarantine, the mood has changed. Having gone through confinement and claustrophobia, where are we now? Outright madness of course! (How else to explain my number one streaming choice?)

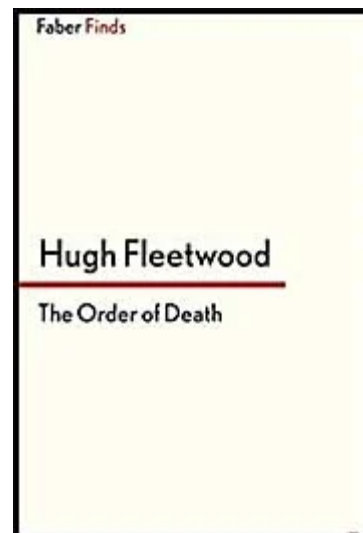
Streaming Now



1. **TIGER KING**

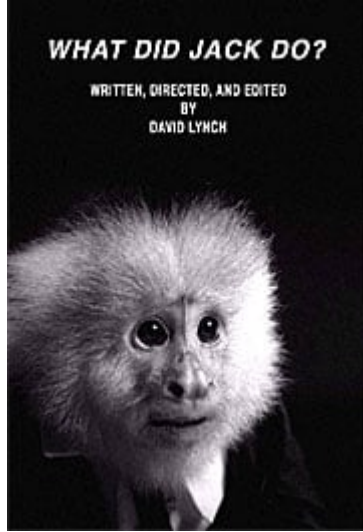
The major pop culture sensation over the past three months, and with good reason: this is the most outrageous, appalling and entertaining docu-series I've seen in some time (it not ever), a peek into the sordid world of tiger breeding and the many colorful characters it involves. NETFLIX

Adam's Picks



1. **THE ORDER OF DEATH BY HUGH FLEETWOOD**

This is crime fiction at its most cutting and unpredictable, satisfying as a particularly gruesome psychological case study and also as, simply, a damn good read. It concerns an alleged cop killer turning up at the home of a mentally unstable PD, leading to corruption, mass murder and psychological power play, all pulled off in a thoroughly idiosyncratic yet unerringly reader-



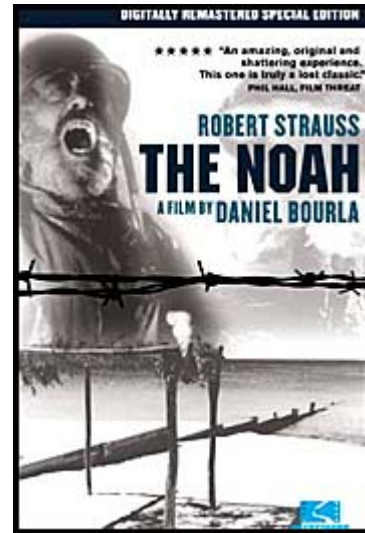
2. WHAT DID JACK DO?

A short film by David Lynch, with a detective interrogating a talking monkey in a building located, apparently, down the street from **ERASERHEAD**. The film often plays like someone's idea of a bad joke, but with a profoundly brooding, oppressive atmosphere--it is, in short, pure David Lynch. NETFLIX



3. CIRCUS OF BOOKS

An eye-opening doco about the iconic LA based adult bookstore Circus of Books. It was made by the daughter of the store's owners Karen and Barry Mason, a nice Jewish couple who became major purveyors of gay pornography, despite the fact that Karen M. was notably homophobic. NETFLIX



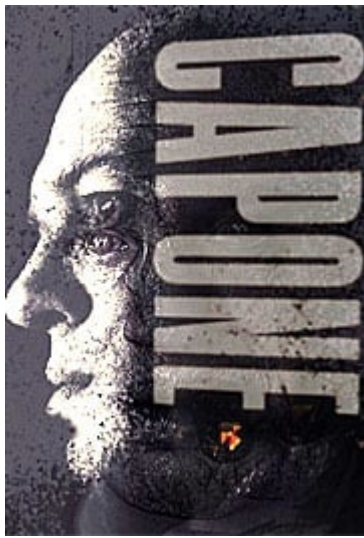
2. THE NOAH

An obscurity that gives new meaning to the term minimal: it features just one character (actor Robert Strauss) on an island, together with countless imaginary (hence unseen) companions. Not an entirely successful film, but definitely a fascinating one. NETFLIX



3. A PERFECTLY NATURAL ACT By DENNIS LITRELL

A most perverse updating on THE INVISIBLE MAN, with a disturbed man murdering his wife and believing himself invisible, in which guise he embarks on a rape spree. Disturbing and outrageous, as it should be, with sexual content that's unusually frank even by modern standards. This novel, FYI, was written by my high school creative writing



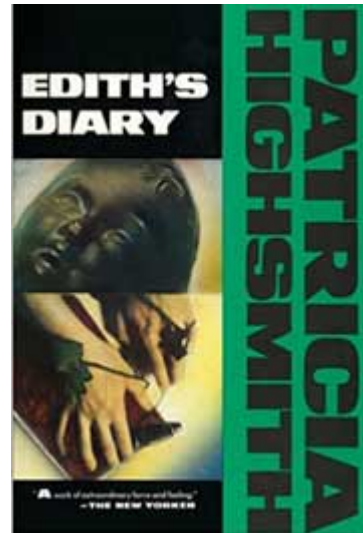
4. **CAPONE**

In which we look in on Tom Hardy as “Fonce” Capone in his final year of life, farting, babbling and hallucinating wildly. Not a great film, but worthwhile for, if nothing else, its geek show value. This is certainly the *only* movie to feature a shooting rampage conducted by a diaper-wearing Al Capone, and I say that’s a sight worth seeing. [AMAZON](#)



5. **SPACESHIP EARTH**

An almost-good documentary look at the Biosphere 2, a self-sustaining biode, and the 1991 experiment in communal living that took place therein (*spoiler alert*: it didn’t go too well). Director Matt Wolf lavishes far more time on the Biosphere 2 itself



4. **EDITH'S DIARY** By **PATRICIA HIGHSMITH**

A 1960s-era housefrow’s life comes increasingly unglued while her concurrent diary entries grow quite deceptively cheery. A most absorbing (if messy and unfocused) depiction of suburban schizophrenia by an author who really knew how to do it. [BOOK](#)



5. **UNDO**

There’s never been a cinematic romance quite like this 47 minute Japanese drama about insanity and obsessive knot-tying. The latter proclivity is perpetrated by a writer’s wife, who appears to be externalizing her feelings of being tied down. Before long her compulsions come to

than the people living in it, but the subject matter alone is interesting--and, given our current situation, timely--enough to sustain one's interest. VUDU

affect her hubbie, who likewise develops a tying fetish, albeit one that's directed on his beloved's body. Intriguing film, but it really should have been longer. FILM.

NEW on the Site!

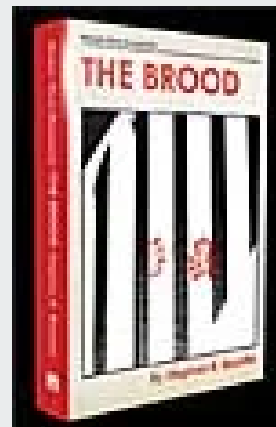
- [Valli](#)
- [The Goat Horn](#)
- [Mindblower](#)
- [Third Instar](#)
- [Robocop: the Definitive History](#)
- [Eraserhead: The David Lynch Files Part 1](#)
- [E-Books, Astrologers, Ocean Parks, Buried Treasure and SURVIVOR](#)
- ***And much more.***



Insider Notes



The big genre movie-related news this week? That would be by the *New York Times* published oral history of **MAD MAX: FURY ROAD** by Kyle Buchanan, who had such an encouraging response to the article that he's since released several **outtakes** in the form of twitter posts. The gist? That the shoot was only



Also: I'm about halfway through Steven Bissette's already-legendary **MIDNIGHT MOVIE MONOGRAPH: THE BROOD**, a near-700 page study of David Cronenberg's **THE BROOD** that's beyond exhaustive in its scope and insight. The book is impressive enough that I'm

slightly less arduous than what ended up onscreen, with fatigue, distrust, claustrophobia and hypothermia taking their toll on the cast and crew.



sorry to have to report a minor but rather glaring error I found in its text: in a lengthy discussion on the 1970 Canadian exploiter **FLICK (DR. FRANKENSTEIN ON CAMPUS)** one of the lead roles is wrongly credited to “Dave Brower.” The role was actually played by Ty Haller, whose omission is doubly puzzling given that Haller (a longtime family friend) co-scripted the Cronenberg-directed 1976 PEEPSHOW episode “The Victim,” thus providing some continuity between FLICK and the book’s main subject. Oh, well.

I'm done reading. To the website!

The Bedlam Files

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